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HIKING THE SCOUT CAMP LOOP

BY MARK MORICAL

The Bulletin

Crooked River Ranch is home to about 10 miles of trails along the Deschutes River Canyon and the Crooked River Gorge, managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Crooked River National Grassland. The 3-mile Scout Camp Loop Trail along the Deschutes Canyon is well worth the 45-minute drive from Bend to reach the trailhead. The trail leads hikers through rocky terrain of sagebrush and juniper trees before descending steeply into the canyon. Views of the immense rock walls and the river below open up to display the High Desert in all its glory.

Directions: From Bend, drive north on U.S. Highway 97. After passing through

Terrebonne, turn left onto Lower Bridge Road. Follow signs to Crooked River Ranch, and after 2 miles turn right on 43rd Street. After 1.7 miles turn left on Chinook Drive. After 2.3 miles turn left on Mustang Road. Go 1 mile and turn right on Shad Road. After 1.5 miles turn right on Peninsula Drive. Go 3.2 miles and turn left on Meadow Road. Travel half a mile and turn right on Scout Camp Trail Road. Proceed to the parking area and trailhead at the end of the road.

Activities allowed: The Scout Camp Trail is designed for hiking only. Dogs are allowed on the trail, but horseback riding, biking and motorized vehicles are not allowed. The trail is best hiked in a clockwise direction.

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Wildflowers along the Scout Camp Loop Trail.

Mark Morical/
Bulletin file
photo

Outdoor pick of the week: Deschutes River Trail — Awbrey Reach



Makenzie Whittle/The Bulletin

The Deschutes River flows below houses near Archie Briggs Road.

One of the best things about living in Central Oregon is that you're never far from a nice hiking, walking or biking trail.

Here in Bend, we have several great options along the Deschutes River including the Awbrey Reach section of the Deschutes River Trail.

This northernmost 3.9-mile section is built on the buried Tumalo irrigation canal and is well maintained, offering great river views as well as the stunning river canyon.

Starting at Sawyer Park, the trail crosses the river and continues along northwest along the

river until the water suddenly drops into a deep canyon while the trail maintains a relatively flat path along Awbrey Butte and through some of the neighborhoods there until finally ending near Awbrey Glen Golf Course.

It's an easy and wide path that offers ample social distancing even on more crowded days, as well as several interpretive signs and benches along the trek. Since the trail passes by many private properties, be respectful of the residents on the butte while enjoying the view.

— Makenzie Whittle, The Bulletin

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